

**ABSOLUTE RATING:** Good

**IMPROVEMENT RATING:** Average

Number of districts with students like ours: 9.

The absolute ratings for those districts ranged from good to good. For improvement ratings, the range was from below average to average.

**Definitions of District Rating Terms**

**Excellent-** District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

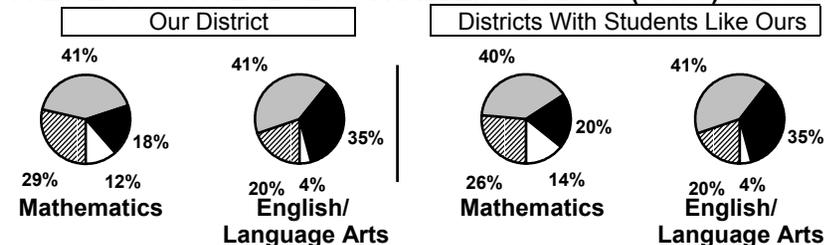
**Good-** District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Average-** District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Below Average-** District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Unsatisfactory-** District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS**



**DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:**

- **Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- **Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- **Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- **Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

**PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS**

Student Group	Percent of Seniors Passing the Exit Exam	Percent of Seniors Qualifying for LIFE Scholarships	Percent of Students Scoring Basic or Above on the PACT	
			ELA	Math
<b>All Students</b>	93.6%	32.3%	80.2%	71.5%
Students with disabilities other than Speech	74.1%	10.7%	43.6%	36.3%
Students without disabilities	94.8%	33.3%	85.7%	76.5%
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	93.0%	24.2%	75.9%	70.4%
Female	93.7%	39.5%	85.2%	72.5%
<b>Ethnic Group</b>				
African-American	78.9%	8.9%	62.5%	50.3%
Hispanic	75.0%	40.0%	77.1%	77.8%
White	94.6%	32.1%	82.2%	73.3%
Other	100.0%	80.0%	94.4%	94.6%
<b>Lunch Status</b>				
Free/ Reduced-Price Lunch	84.2%	13.7%	67%	55%
Pay for Lunch	94.3%	34.0%	86.6%	79%

**TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM**

	First-time Examinees		
	1999	2000	2001
<b>Our district</b>			
Passed all 3 subtests	72.6%	79.7%	81.0%
Passed 2 subtests	15.5%	12.2%	11.3%
Passed 1 subtest	8.4%	5.9%	5.3%
Passed no subtest	3.5%	2.1%	2.4%
<b>Districts with students like ours</b>			
Passed all 3 subtests	69.8%	75.2%	75.7%
Passed 2 subtests	16.2%	14.1%	13.4%
Passed 1 subtest	9.0%	7.4%	7.1%
Passed no subtest	5.0%	3.3%	3.8%

**LIFE scholarships at four-year institutions**

	Eligible	Percent of Seniors Meeting Grade Point Average Requirement	Meeting SAT/ACT Requirement
Our District	32.3%	58.6%	33.6%
Districts Like Ours	25.9%	55.3%	27.8%

**College Admissions Tests:** Tests that are frequently used in the college admissions process.

District	SAT Verbal		SAT Math		SAT Total		ACT English		ACT Math		ACT Reading		ACT Science		ACT Total	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
District	508	517	506	509	1014	1026	20.2	21.2	20.2	20.8	21.0	22.4	20.4	21.4	20.5	21.6
State	484	486	482	488	966	974	18.7	18.8	19.2	19.3	19.5	19.5	19.2	19.2	19.3	19.3
Nation	505	506	514	514	1019	1020	20.5	20.5	20.7	20.7	21.4	21.3	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0

*These tests were administered to samples of students:*

**Terra Nova Test:** A national, norm-referenced achievement test.

	Percent scoring in upper half							
	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Grade 4	47.8	50.0	43.1	50.0	58.4	50.0	50.5	50.0
Grade 7	45.8	50.0	59.4	50.0	54.7	50.0	53.9	50.0
Grade 10	59.6	50.0	59.5	50.0	62.4	50.0	59.1	50.0

**National Assessment of Education Progress :** A national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	4	1998	4	6	18	23	33	32	45	39
Writing	8	1998	0	1	15	23	64	59	21	17
Mathematics	4	2000	2	3	16	23	42	43	40	31

# DISTRICT PROFILE

## INDICATORS OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

	This District	Change from Last Year	Districts With Students Like Ours	Median District
<b>DISTRICT</b>				
• Dollars per student	\$5,671	N/A	\$5,671	\$6,464
• Prime instructional time	90.3%	Down from 91.1%	90.6%	89.4%
• Student-teacher ratio	21.5 to 1	N/A	21.8 to 1	20.2 to 1
• Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.4%	N/A	0.3%	0.6%
<b>STUDENTS (n=15,654)</b>				
• Advanced placement/ int'l baccalaureate program exam success ratio	64.7%	N/A	55.6%	43.8%
• Attendance Rate	95.8%	Down from 96%	96%	95.7%
• Taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	5.7%	N/A	4.8%	5.8%
• Taking PACT (Math) off grade level	4.4%	N/A	3.8%	4.5%
• Retention rate	4.7%	Up from 3.9%	4.1%	6.0%
<b>TEACHERS (n=1,099)</b>				
• Professional development days per teacher	7.7 Days	Up from 6.9	7.7 Days	7.8 Days
• Attendance rate	95.2%	Down from 96%	95.6%	95.2%
• Advanced Degrees	52%	Down from 52.7%	53.5%	44.4%
• Continuing contracts	87.3%	Down from 88.1%	81.5%	81.4%
• Out-of-field permits	2.6%	Up from 1.3%	1.8%	2.2%
• Teachers returning from the previous year	93.8%	Up from 93.6%	91%	89.5%
• Average salary	\$38,843	Up 4.7%	\$38,843	\$37,143

### DISTRICT FACTS

<b>DISTRICT</b>				
• Annual dropout rate	5.2%	Up from 3.3%	2.3%	2.9%
• Percentage spent on teacher salaries	56.3%	N/A	55%	50.9%
• Superintendent's years in the district	1	N/A	8	3.5
• Parent conferences	77.7%	N/A	78.1%	81.0%
• Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	N/A	Excellent	Excellent
• Number of schools	25	No change	13	8
• Number of alternative schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of magnet schools	0	N/A	0	0
• Portable classrooms	9.4%	N/A	2%	6.5%
• Attendance rate of district office staff	97.3%	Down from 98.3%	97.6%	97.5%
• Average administrative salary	\$62,829	Up 7.6%	\$65,484	\$64,098
<b>STUDENTS</b>				
• Enrollment in adult education GED or diploma programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Percent of completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Suspensions and expulsions	138	N/A	81	100
• Percent eligible for state gifted and talented programs	13.9%	Up from 12.2%	14.9%	10.5%
• Percentage with disabilities other than speech	11%	Up from 9.2%	9.4%	10.5%

Pickens School District  
1348 Griffin Mill Road  
Easley, SC 29640



**Grades** K-12

**Enrollment:** 15,654 Students

**Superintendent** Dr. Mendel Stewart 864-855-8150

**Board Chair** Mr. Ernie Fortner 864-859-2336

## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual District Report Card	2001
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### DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The School District of Pickens County is the tenth largest district in South Carolina with 16,000 students, 4K-12, in twenty-eight schools and programs. Our board of trustees and district administration are committed to providing excellent schools and outstanding educational opportunities for our students. The district's accomplishments are a credit to the efforts of our teachers, students, staff, and parents. The district had 23 teachers (82% of the applicants) attain certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. A Teacher Forum was established to give teachers and staff a voice in the decision-making process at the district level. Our teachers participated in Weekday Workshops to upgrade their knowledge and skills. A new staff development plan is in place, giving teachers more autonomy for their professional growth. Pickens Middle School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Two of our schools, D.W. Daniel High School and Pickens Middle School, were finalists in the Carolina Palmetto's Finest Award. Holly Springs Elementary School won the National Kids are Authors Competition, sponsored by Scholastic Books, for an unprecedented third consecutive year. Three schools, A.R. Lewis, Pickens Elementary, and Six Mile Elementary, won a \$1.5 Million 21st Century grant. Pickens County remains a Service Learning Leader District with over 9,000 students participating in service learning activities in 2000-2001.

The Rebound Program, an alternative program for grades 4-8, has helped to reduce the number of student suspensions and expulsions. Each middle and high school has a School Resource Officer, and every school has a nurse. Test scores are consistently above the state and national average on most measures. The district has made progress on reducing class size. This initiative has resulted in the purchase of portable classrooms to supplement permanent classroom space. Athletic facilities at each high school have been improved. Emphasis has been placed on roof and HVAC replacement, but there still exists a need for new and renovated schools. Improved facilities would replace 108 portable classrooms. The administration and board of trustees plan to address the facility needs through a future bond referendum.

Our district is an acknowledged leader in excellence and will continue to emphasize high academic achievement and career preparation for all students through quality educational programs in a caring and safe environment.

#### South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at

[www.myscschools.com](http://www.myscschools.com)

